Counter Affidavits to the memorandum of appeals within four weeks. Hon'ble Supreme Court further ordered that payments, if any, if at all required to be made, will be subject to the result of BSNL's appeals.

Promotion of two hundred dollar laptop by MIT

2324. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign firm Media Labs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is in India to promote the two hundred dollar laptop which was specially designed and manufactured for children in rural areas under 'one laptop per child' project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many States such as Manipur, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh have placed orders for 72000 laptops with them;

(d) whether the Media Labs has requested Government to remove import duties and other taxes on these laptops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per a Media Report *(www.mydigitafc.com),* Dr. Nicholas Nagroponte, the Co-founder of media Labs at Massachusetts Institutes of Technology (MIT), is in India to promote the $ 200 laptop, which was specially designed and manufactured for children in rural areas.

(c) The Government of Manipur has launched a pilot project by engaging OLPC (One laptop per Child) for e-learning. The project includes supply of 1000 OLPC laptops along with preloaded software and costs associated with training and demonstration.

(d) and (e) The Department of Information Technology, Government of India has not received any such proposal from the Media Labs, MIT. However, laptops in any case, being covered under ITA (Information Technology Agreement), are exempted from basic customs duty.

Creating of level playing field

2325. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in the process of creating a level playing field between the existing operators who are able to win 3G spectrum and others who are not able to win the award of 3G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will mandate roaming of 2G subscribers of those operators who are not able to get 3G spectrum into the networks of other 3G operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The eligibility criteria for telecom companies to participate in the 3G auction is:

Any entity (i) that holds a UAS/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service ("CMTS") licence, or (ii) that has previous experience of running 3G telecom services either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary and gives an undertaking to obtain a UAS licence through a New Entrant Nominee UAS Licenses as per the DoT guidelines before starting telecom operations can bid for 3G Spectrum.

The 3G spectrum would be awarded only to the successful bidders for providing 3G service.

(c) and (d) The roaming policy is applicable to the licenses and not to specific spectrum bands. At present mandatory roaming is not part of the Government's telecom policy. Roaming arrangements are based on bilateral decision between operators.

Empowered Group of Ministers on 3G Spectrum

2326. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGM) on the 3G Spectrum has failed to resolve difference between the defence and the telecom Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether auction of 3G for GSM players has been postponed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to allot 3G spectrum in a transparent way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) in its second meeting held on 27.08.2009, among others, has decided that "4 blocks of 2+5 MHz of spectrum in 2.1 GHz band (excluding one block already allotted to BSNL/MTNL) should be auctioned in telecom circles where 20 MHz or more spectrum is available. In all other telecom circles, where less than 20 MHz spectrum is available in 2.1 GHz band, the number of available 5 MHz blocks should be auctioned (excluding one block already allotted to BSNL/MTNL)" and MoD has been requested to release the spectrum in anticipation of the completion of the triggers.

(c) and (d) As per the information memorandum (IM) issued on 23/10/2009, various aspects associated with the 3G auction has been indicated.

Audit of service and standards of cellular operators

2327. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: